During 2004-05 and 2005-06 the raw jute crop was perceived to be short and the price of raw jute ruled above minimum support price. As such JCI and Cooperatives could purchase very little quantity. The farmers have received price above MSP for the market.

(c) No case of any distress sale has been reported in Bihar. The JCI is committed to purchase whatever quantity of raw jute is offered by farmers to it at (MSP). MSP is being declared every year and the same has been given wide publicity for information to all concerned including jute farmers.

Handloom clusters in Tamil Nadu

1010. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up handloom clusters in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the clusters will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir, the Government of India does not propose to establish any cluster in Tamil Nadu. Rather the Government of India, under the Integrated handloom Cluster Development Scheme, proposes to develop 20 handloom clusters throughout the country covering over 5000 looms under each cluster at a cost of Rs. 2.00 crore per cluster. Three such existing clusters at Tiruvannamalai, Trichy and Kurinjipadi in the State of Tamil Nadu have already been identified and the Implementing Agencies for these clusters have commenced the work in the field.

Apparel training and design centres in Tamil Nadu

1011. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is proposed to set up Apparel Training and Design Centres at Madurai, Coimbatore and Salem in Tamil Nadu considering huge textile industry presence there;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) is running an Apparel Training and Design Centre (ATDC) at Avinashi